



Thomas A. Schatz  
*President*

July 17, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support H.R. 5684, the United States-Oman Free Trade Implementation Act (U.S.-Oman FTA). The U.S.-Oman FTA is in our national interest. We urge you and your colleagues to act for the public good and resist the pleadings of special interests opposed to the agreement.

The nation's fiscal interests are well-served by this agreement. It will provide U.S. companies in all sectors increased access to a rapidly growing market in one of the most strategically important regions of the world. At the present time, U.S. exporters face relatively high tariff barriers to market access in Oman. The U.S.-Oman FTA will immediately eliminate all tariffs on industrial and consumer products. In effect, this represents a tax reduction for American products, which will result in U.S. export growth to Oman. U.S. taxpayers will also benefit from the elimination of bureaucratic tariff administration.

The U.S.-Oman FTA promotes U.S. efforts to expand ties with countries in the Middle East, and it furthers the goal of creating a Middle East Free Trade Area (MEFTA) by 2013. Passage of H.R. 5684 would implement the fifth such agreement with a country in the Middle East and be a step forward in deepening the U.S. economic relationship with the region.

Approval of H.R. 5684 would also promote U.S. efforts to advance a broader trade agenda, particularly within the World Trade Organization Doha Round. U.S. trading partners around the world will be watching this vote in order to gauge the depth of the U.S. commitment and seriousness to free trade.

I would like to reiterate CCAGW's support for the U.S.-Oman FTA. The vote on H.R. 5684 will be among those considered in *CCAGW's 2006 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,